A LETTER

8 10.

FROM A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO HIS FRIEND IN THE COUNTRY.

THe coffy houſe and ſtreet news, Sir, is but too true. Our new King continues intirely an Hollander ſtill, and means our purſes ſhall pay his gratitude to the States Generall for the ſuccour which he ſqueeſed out of them.

That forward zeal for Proteſtant Religion with which the Hollanders cloathed their manifeſt, and thoſe deſintereſſed ſuccours which they gave in alms to England for the reeſtabliſſement of our liberty, have cheated many a man: but ſo much generoſity is not the vertue of merchants, who ſacrifice all to their intereſt. They have now declared that they never intended, the ships and Soldiers lent the Prince of Orange, for his entreprile, ſhould be at their charge. They ſwell the account to 600000. l. and urge payment; we muſt allow the account as they give it in on their word, and may be ſure, intereſt and the hazard of their mony is not forgotten.

They have made the Prince of Orange their Factor, and he prowes zealously faithfull. He never ſerv'd them ſo well when he was their ſubject, as now we have made him our King. Hee ſet on his emiſſarys to tamper with all his wel affected members, before the motion was made to the houſe, and we proving a little slow in taking a motion ſo unexpected and ſo unreſonable into conſideration, hee plyed us with meſſage after meſſage and at laſt got Mr. Hamden to undertake the buſineſs, and report the account to the houſe.

In the time of our paſt liberty you yourſelf can witnes how matters paſt in debates of free and lawfull Parliaments, and with what freedom every 'one deliverd his opinion of what he judge'd expedient or prejudiciall to the nation. But 'tis not now as it has been. We are no longer the ſame Engliſhmen, who knew not what fear meant as often as our rights and priviledges came in queſtion, and who were ſo unſhakably unanimous againſt impoſitions contrary to the good and advantage of the Nation. We have got traitors among us wholy devoted to their private intereſts and their new maſter, and theſe ſo fright the honeſt men with their threats, that we are grown ſpiritles in our own defenſe: fear ty's up our tounges, and with as much indignation as moſt of us heard a motion made to enrich forreigners with our mony, and ſend ſo vaſt a ſum out of the kingdom, no body durſt open his mouth. The houſe was ſtruck dumb, and forc't to adjourn the debate to the next day. I was one of the firſt that left the houſe, with the grief of a true Engliſhman ſtung to the quick with the unhappy condition to which wee are reduc't *** and *** and ſome more who yet in their hearts preſerve a love for their loſt liberty, followd me home where we found ourſelvs all of a mind, very deſirous to withdraw and avoyd at leaſt the reproach of being complices in what paſſes againſt our liberty and laws: but K William being it ſeems ſecure that thoſe, whom threats and promiſes have made ſure to him, will alwais carry it in Parliament, will needs force us tarry in the houſe, and make it a punishable matter to take the air in the country. Tis for this reaſon his creatures have got an order to oblige abſent Members to return by a day preſixt: ſo that they are not content to impoſe upon us the yoke of a new tyranny, but barr us the poor comfort of not being witneſſes to what is don againſt us, and if we will not concurr with our conſent, make us in ſpite of our teeth concurr at leaſt by our preſence.

This is the reſult of our ſeducing hopes when we came into the houſe. They told us the Prince of Orange was the defender of our liberty, and deſired a Convention only to ſet due bounds to Royalty, ecure Proteſtant Religion againſt the attempts of the Papists, and by excluding the groundles pretence of diſpenſing power for ever, reanimate the laws with a freſh vigour They told us that coming purely for the good of the Engliſh, he would truſt wholy to them, and ſend back his forreign ſoldiers to Holland, of whom he had no need, and that looking upon the reſtoration of our liberty as his own work, he would bee the Protector and Defender of it.

We believed him upon his word, and this credulyty will be the ſource of all our misfortunes We know his falſe dealing, his boundles ambition, and inſatiable avarice But what remedy? and what way left to avoyd taking his will for law, when againſt all law, he keeps his forreigners to authorize his doings, and enslave us at at pleaſure? ſo that till God put in a helping hand, and cure us of our blindnes, he will do here, what ever he has a mind to.

His 600000 l. motion to gratify the Hollander will certainly take. We know well enough there is no juſtice in it, we know the Hollanders declared in their manifeſt of 28. October paſt, that *being adverniſed that the Kings of France and England hand made a league to pull down and quite deſtroy their ſtate, they had conſented to the enterpriſe of the Prince of Orange, and reſolved to aſſiſt him with men and ships.* They themſelvs therefore own that they acted for themſelvs and their own intereſt: and yet wee ſhall give them what they ask never the leſſ for that. Nay I expect the Members, who are of the Privy Counſell, ſhall be order'd to carry his Majeſty the thankes of the houſe for his Goodneſſ and love to the Engliſh, in contenting himſelf with ſo ſmall a ſumme for the Hollanders. I ſee our Nation heretofore ſo jealous of its liberty accuſtom's it ſelf now to kiſſ the iron rod which ſcourges them; and thoſe who formerly would have layd down their lives to purchaſe a Common Wealth, drive furiously on for a deſpotik power ſuch as is known no where but in Aſia.

The truth is he carrys it yet with us, in appareance, with ſome moderation. What a noyſe did his releaſing chimny money make? and what trumpetting was there of his tenderneſſ and liberality. Alas! he means we ſhall pay dear for that ſmall eaſe, and make up his petty loſſ with gain to the purpoſe Tis already inſinuated that the reduction of Ireland will coſt conſiderably, and a Warr at home and abroad ask a great deal of money; and theſe inſinuations will quickly become votes and Acts. Wee have no will of our own left; we are goeing to be over whelmed with tax upon tax; Our laws already undermined, are upon the point of falling and if God give us not courage enough to reſolve to maintain them, farewel to our eſtates and liberty for ever.

Wee might have taken warning by our Neighbours, and by what hee has done in Holland, certainly known what he would do in England Hee was born a ſubject to the Hollanders, yet found means to become their Maſter; and engroſſ a ſoveraign power over them, without the title. Beſoted wee! could wee think it a likely matter, that hee would go leſſ when hee was King of England, and depend on Parliaments? And then wee find by experience that the ſame courſes are taken here, which have enslaved Holland: thoſe choſen into all employments who are blindly devoted to him, and all others excluded; promiſes to corrupt one, and threats to frighten another, and the art of ridding thoſe out of the

by whose free spirits will not bend, and sweeping away all that resist him.

Nothing can keep the vast projects of his irregular ambition within compass. Religion is but an usefull tool to work upon the fools which will be cheated; and wee shall quickly see ours destroy'd by his hands, who in his Letters, his Declarations and even in his flags has declared him self the Protector of it. The oath of Supremacy which acknowledged Kings to bee the supreme Governors of the English Church, is already gone; Ceremonys and the Music in Whitehall Chappel, nothing in use in our Churches, sent packing; Prayers changed, very ancient Rites abolisht: and all this upon pretext of uniteing Episcopacy and Presbytery, but in reality to bring the Episcopall party over to the Presbyterians. Not that hee troubles him self much with either Religion: but the fidelity of Bishops to powers lawfully establisht by God, is not for the turn of usurpers; Calvinist or Independent Principles do much better when one has a mind to fly at all; Principles by the which every one may beleive as is most for his purpose, break oaths made to lawfull Princes without scrupule, acknowledge no subordination whither in Church or state. This suits a great deal better both with his own present interest, and that of Protestant Princes, of whose assistance hee thinks, hee may have occation. Let that interest change, hee will change too, and follow it wherever it go, whether to Head or Member of the Church, and Episcopall, Presbyterian, Independent or Quaking Member, Statcholder in Holland or King in England, but Tirant by whatever [illegible] or title dignify'd.

The frights in to which our abdicating King and his party put us were nothing to this. Tis true hee would employ Papists, and dispense with conscience how for destroying the Religion establisht by law in England, but neither had the will, nor the means; a lawfull Parliament without which hee could do nothing, would alwais have been in a condition to oppose, and redress what bad Counsell might suggest amiss. That relelf is now out of doing. The Parliament is a pack of his creatures slavishly obedient to the pleasure of our new King and those who in their hearts preserve the love of their Religion and laws, so cruelly stricken, are bridled by the fear of a Prince, who stands ready upon dispatching a man who opposes him, without scruple to do out of the way, and has a forreign army at hand, ready to execute whatever order he gives them.

In a word our Laws are already overturned; our Religion totters, and will not long stand; and to this state of violence our credulous weakness has reduc't us. tis time I think to wake out of our swound, to acknowledge the hand of God upon us for deserting our lawfull Prince, and return to him. Hee who sets up the standard of liberty any where is sure of crouds of helping hands flocking in to him from all parts; and the fidelity which wee ow to the true interests of the Nation cannot fail to be crowned with success and immortall glory. I remain, &c.

